

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

The Warren County Council were sworn in by Michelle Hetrick, Clerk for their first meeting of March 2019. Present for the meeting were: John Comer, Matt Commons, Sharon Hutchison, Neil Ellis and Lee Kay. Also, in attendance are Rusty Hart, Randy Haddock, Brian Jordan, Clay Andrews, John Kuiper.

1. The meeting was called to order by John Comer, Council President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Comer.
3. New Business:
 - a. Meeting Agenda Approval – Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the agenda with a second of Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
 - b. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the February 25, 2019 minutes with a second from Matt Commons all voted in favor and the minutes were signed.
 - c. Rusty Hart, Sheriff, presented a resolution for approval concerning Sheriff's Commissary Fund Expenditures. Hart explained the resolution and stated that the resolution defines expenditures. Indiana Code explains where the Sheriff can spend the Commissary funds from, but states items spent must be mutually agreed upon by the Sheriff and Council. Hart further explained that The State Board of Accounts, SBOA, is requiring a new report showing more detail. This resolution provides more definition to the expenditures. Indiana Code states that the commissary supplements the budget and cannot replace the budget. Hart explained that the Sheriff Department cell phones are paid from this fund, as well as a credit card is associated with the Commissary Account and this is used to order items, use when a check is not a viable option. There are many places that a check is not accepted any longer and a credit card is the only option. Hutchison inquired about expenses with inmate transit. Hart explained that either cash or the credit card must be used and reimburse from Commissary as the County does not have a credit card. Ellis inquired if the expenditures will be reviewed monthly or quarterly. Hart stated that this will be reviewed yearly by the Council and Sheriff. This account does not have a tremendous balance, approximately \$11,000. Hart explained that when the budget is running low, the Sheriff can use the commissary fund for items such as uniforms. Vehicle license and title fees are taken from the Commissary Fund. Hutchison inquired about the SBOA questioning the funds used that are budgeted, but paid from the Commissary Fund. Hart explained that the SBOA created the verbiage to allow the County to supplement the budget. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the Resolution #2019-004 with a second from Lee Kay, all voted in favor and the resolution was signed. Hart explained that Senator Boots is on the appropriations committee for the State budget and inmate housing reimbursements are being discussed. The inmate housing reimbursement rate is \$35.00 per day, which has not changed since 1981. The Sheriff Departments across the State have asked for the reimbursement rate be raised to \$55.00 per day, but the version of the budget from the house only raised it to \$37.50 per day. Hart requested an email from the Council if possible, to support a larger increase. Hart explained that the level 6 felons are still \$35.00 per month and we are holding for several other counties. Hart stated that Nancy Litzenberger has offered to donate her office building to the Sheriff Department. This would give the County a space out side the jail for interviews as well as training area. Additionally, this would allow for other County Offices to use for storage space.
4. Elected Official/Officer Holder Comment:
 - a. Brian Jordan, Commissioner, explained that the Courthouse Roof Repairs should be finished up in the next few months. Jordan will have a presentation in the coming months to show the Council all of the repairs. The clay tiles are ready to be delivered for the dome repair. The rubber roof is still being applied and the scaffolding will be put back around the dome for the clay tile replacement. There are 2 blocks along the roof on the west and north side, that had to be replicated and they should be finished soon as well. The work inside the building will be looked at after the water issues are fixed. The third floor is the worst at this point. Jordan stated that he working the Barce, County Attorney, concerning a resolution for county broad band to create a Broad Band Ready Community for Warren County. The Council would be involved in the possibility of abatements for broad band companies. Hutchison inquired about the budget for the repair work. Jordan stated that the dome repair work includes windows/vents and angle iron, but the contingency funds in the contract should cover this. It does look like we will stay within the budget. Jordan explained the skin on the EMA building will need replaced in the future. Jordan will present estimates in the near future.
 - b. Sharon Hutchison discussed the Health Department Annual Report, as she attends the Health Department meetings. The Health Department is looking to relocated. Hutchison stated that the Council has been invited to attend the meetings. Weston-Hubner will look into a meeting schedule for the Commissioners and Council. Hutchison explained the budget report in detail as well as the percentage that Warren County budgets for the Fountain-Warren Health Department is determined by the census.
 - c. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor, explained the proposed 2020 budget calendar. After much discussion, it was decided to distribute the budget requests to the office holders on June 1, 2019. Budget request books will be given to the Commissioners and Council by June 24, 2019 if not earlier. The Council and Commissioners will meet July 29th and 30th at 8:00 a.m. for their budget meeting. Weston-Hubner reminded the Council that that the 30th is scheduled but may not be needed. Weston-Hubner will email the proposed budget calendar to the Council and Commissioners. Additionally, the DLGF representative will be in the courthouse April 12th to explain budgets to all taxing units and elected officials.
 - d. Carolyn Orr, Steuben Township Trustee, inquired to Lee Kay concerning the Township Budget approval from the Council. Weston-Hubner stated that several years ago the DLGF changed the civil taxing unit concerning nonbinding recommendations stating that the budgets are reviewed by the township boards rather than the Council. Weston-Hubner will verify with the DLGF and let the Council know. Weston-Hubner explained the Treasurer's Monthly Report as well as all information concerning County funds, is on Gateway for the public transparency.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Lee Kay inquired about the council passing to do the separate account for the fencing at the December 2018 meeting. The Commissioner's setup a fence fund as per ordinance. Kay stated that she feels the fund it is not an efficient use of taxpayer funds. Comer stated that this was tabled in the last Council meeting and this will be discussed with further information has been received. Hutchison inquired about the Ordinance that was passed by the Commissioners

concerning the 2nd reading of the ordinance as it was not a fully passed ordinance. Brian Jordan stated that the ordinance did not pass full votes as this would have been the first reading. Jordan is looking into this with Jud. b. Weston-Hubner stated that tax bills have been mailed by the Treasurer on March 22, 2019.

The next County Council meeting will be April 29, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. .

There being no further business, Lee Kay made a motion to adjourn with a second from Neil Ellis.

ATTEST:

Robin Weston-Hubner

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL

John Comer, President

Sharon Hutchison, Vice President

Ethan Foxworthy

Laurie "Lee" Kay

Neil Ellis

Matt Commons

George Taylor